

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W
-----034800 020752Z /11

R 010934Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2876
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0299

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJ: MBFR: ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNIQUE PROPOSAL

AT ITS MEETING OF MAY 31, THE AD HOC GROUP AUTHORIZED UK REP
(BOLLAND) TO PRESENT SOVIET REPS WITH AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE
PORTIONS OF THE NATO COMMUNIQUE WHICH DEAL WITH MBFR. THE GROUP
ALSO APPROVED THE ATTACHED SPEAKING NOTES FOR UK REP'S USE AT
THAT MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE AT 1700 VIENNA TIME ON MAY 31.

BEGIN TEXT:
SPEAKING NOTE

1. I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES TO
COMMUNICATE TO THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN ADVANCE OF ITS
PUBLICATION THE TEXT OF THE PASSAGE ON THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS
IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE NATO MINISTERS WHICH
CLOSES TODAY IN WASHINGTON.

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2. IN GIVING YOU THIS ADVANCE NOTICE, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REGARD
THE TEXT AS CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL PUBLICATION AND TO CHECK IT AGAINST
THE COMMUNIQUE AS FINALLY PUBLISHED.

3. YOU WILL SEE FROM THIS TEXT THAT THE WESTERN MINISTERS ARE
VERY INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING SUBSTANTIAL AND EARLY PROGRESS IN
OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

(4. CONTINGENCY

IN ANSWER TO EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, UK REPRESENTATIVE WOULD SAY THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT HE HAD ALREADY SAID. THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE SPOKE FOR ITSELF.)
END TEXT.

FOLLOWING IS UK REP'S REPORT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH TARASOV:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. ACCOMPANIED BY MR. GILLMORE, I CALLED ON MR. TARASOV AND MR. SHUSTOV TO GIVE THEM THE TEXT OF SECTION ON MBFR IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON 30 AND 31 MAY.

2. I EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL, AND READ OUT, USING THE LANGUAGE APPROVED BY THE AHG, THE APPROPRIATE PART OF THE COMMUNIQUE. I THEN HANDED TARASOV A COPY OF THE TEXT WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TO MOSCOW.

3. TARASOV SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD I COULD MAKE NO COMMENTS, HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF I WOULD CONFIRM HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS IN THE ENGLISH TEXT. FIRST, HE ASKED IF THE VERB "WILL PROPOSE" IN THE LAST SENTENCE INDICATED THAT THE NATO MINISTERS WERE NOT NOW PROPOSING A MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL BUT MIGHT DO SO AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. I
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SAID ONLY THAT THE VERB WAS IN THE FUTURE TENSE. SECONDLY, HE STATED THAT THE REFERENCE TO "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" IN THE LAST SENTENCE WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SAME WORDS IN THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE. I SAID MERELY THAT THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE SPOKE FOR ITSELF.

4. TARASOV THEN MADE SEVERAL REMARKS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS HIS FIRST, PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS.

5. HE SAID THAT THIS PROPOSAL DID NOT BRING ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE WESTERN POSITION. MINISTERS IN WASHINGTON HAD DISCUSSED PLANS TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PROPOSAL FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, THOUGH INTERESTING IN ITSELF, SUBSTANTIALLY LOST ITS VALUE. ALLIANCE PLANS TO INCREASE ITS FORCES IN THE AREA GAVE RISE TO SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF WESTERN "DETERMINATION TO BRING THE TALKS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION".

6. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE MORE DIFFICULT AND OFFERED LESS PROSPECT OF SUCCESS WHEN ONE SIDE WAS DELIBERATELY INCREASING ITS FORCES, PARTICULARLY AT THE TIME OF THE UNSSD. THIS DID NOT HELP TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS.

7. IN REPLY, I REPEATED THAT NATO MINISTERS WERE DETERMINED TO
MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD. THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR SCEPTICISM.
ON THE CONTRARY, THIS PROPOSAL WAS AN IMPORTANT POTENTIAL CONTRI-
BUTION TO OUR BUSINESS IN VIENNA.

8. IN ANSWERING TARASOV'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT WESTERN FORCE IN-
CREASES, I SAID THAT NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON
REACHING AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT AND NOT MERELY EXCHANGE
CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES ABOUT FORCE IMPROVEMENTS.
END TEXT. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNIQUE, MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBFRV00299
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0995
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806107/aaaadokr.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3dd7417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2162338
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNIQUE PROPOSAL AT ITS MEETING OF MAY 31, THE AD HOC GROUP AUTHORIZED UK REP (BOLLAND) TO PRESENT SOVIET REPS WITH AN ADVANCE C
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3dd7417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014